

# Higher Education: Shaping Our Future

## MATERIALS

Visit the National Issues Forum website for a full set of materials, including a moderator's guide, a participant discussion guide, a discussion starter video and a post-forum questionnaire. All can be downloaded and copied for use in your forums.

[http://www.nifi.org/issue\\_books/detail.aspx?](http://www.nifi.org/issue_books/detail.aspx?catID=6&itemID=21640)

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## NEED HELP GETTING STARTED?

We're glad to provide advice about organizing your event.

Feel free to contact us at:

Linda Hoke  
[lhoke@southern.org](mailto:lhoke@southern.org)

Ted Abernathy  
[tabernathy@southern.org](mailto:tabernathy@southern.org)

## LET US KNOW YOUR PLANS

Ready to schedule an event?

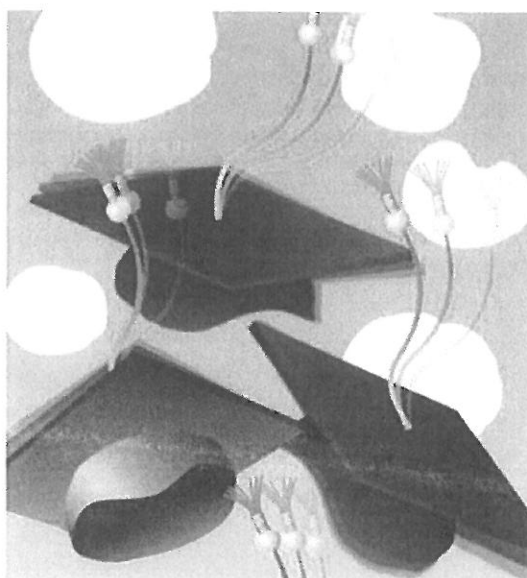
Contact Linda Hoke at

[lhoke@southern.org](mailto:lhoke@southern.org) to let us

know of your plans. Or, submit

your plans online at [http://](http://www.nifi.org/calendar/)

[www.nifi.org/calendar/](http://www.nifi.org/calendar/)



- ◆ What are our expectations of higher education?
- ◆ Are our colleges and universities doing a good job preparing students for the future?
- ◆ What is the role of technology in the future of higher education?
- ◆ Are you concerned about issues of cost and access?

We invite you to organize a forum to get the perspectives of those in your business or civic group, organization or community so that we can share these views and ideas with policy leaders in the region.

Since 2001, Southern Growth Policies Board has promoted a series of annual conversations in the South on important issues related to economic development. Following in the tradition of this *Listening to the South* process, Linda Hoke and Ted Abernathy, who have long-supported this work, are working with the Kettering Foundation to draw regional attention to the future of higher education.

The National Issues Forum Institute and the American Commonwealth Partnership launched a national conversation on the future of higher education in the fall of 2012. To-date well over 100 forums have been held, primarily at institutions of higher education. We're asking for your help in extending the conversation about the future of higher education to business leaders, civic and youth organizations, and communities across the South.

Ideas and comments from your forum will be shared with policy leaders in the region and nation to help them consider the best paths forward. Just as important as sharing your views, a forum can be a tool for you to galvanize action in your own community or organization. People often tell us that forums such as these have led to new networks, a better understanding of the issue and the start of serious thinking about the future.

So, how do you hold a forum? You invite the group and download all the materials you need for the event. Civic clubs, workforce boards, chamber of commerce meetings, leadership classes or youth groups can provide the audience, or create your own in order to promote connections between different groups in your community. A typical forum audience is between 10 and 30 participants, but smaller or larger groups—including regional gatherings—can also be very effective.

The forums can be run by almost anyone using a moderator's guide and discussion guides for participants. A full set of materials is available for downloading and copying, including a moderator's guide, a participant discussion guide, a discussion starter video and a post-forum questionnaire. Tips and instructions for moderators are also available online.

Download the free materials at [http://www.nifi.org/issue\\_books/detail.aspx?catID=6&itemID=21640](http://www.nifi.org/issue_books/detail.aspx?catID=6&itemID=21640).

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